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## BOOK NOTICES

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**The Stewardship of Faith: Our Heritage from Early Christianity.** By Kirsopp Lake. New York: Putnam, 1915. Pp. vii+237. \$1.50.

The volume reproduces in the main lectures which the author gave at the Lowell Institute and in King's Chapel in Boston in 1913. The lecture style has been preserved, so that the book makes charming reading. The main purpose of the lectures was to exhibit some of the outstanding characteristics of early Christianity as it spread from Palestine into the pagan world and came to expression in the ancient Catholic church. Without going laboriously into details, the prominent phases of the development are portrayed very clearly. To begin with, the nature and aspect of Judaism in Jesus' day are described, emphasis falling chiefly upon apocalyptic ideas of the time. Next, the teaching of Jesus is expounded in the light of this background. He is found to have interpreted his mission in terms of his own messiahship defined apocalyptically. The development of the Christian movement subsequent to Jesus' death is set into close relation with the life of the Greco-Roman world within which Christianity grew up on gentile soil. The Christians' heritages from heathendom, as well as their opposition to certain phases of pagan life and thinking, receive consideration. The author recognizes that Christianity in the large during these early days was an exceedingly varied but vital phenomenon whose life sought to express itself in the theology, the ethics, and the institution of the church. It was this fundamentally vital quality in Christianity which guaranteed its success. "The church did not triumph because it preserved its theology, its ethics, or its institutions unchanged, but because it changed them all, and changed them rapidly, in order that they might express more adequately and more fully the spiritual life, which remained the same, though the forms with which it was clothed were altering with extraordinary rapidity." Our "heritage" from the early Christians is, accordingly, a greatly varied product, but we are one with them in the necessity of so ordering our ways as to give the fullest possible expression to the life of the spirit. Our supreme duty is to develop our inheritance, since growth is the fundamental condition upon which continued life is possible.

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**The Environment of Early Christianity.** By S. Angus. New York: Scribner, 1915. Pp. xi+240. \$0.75.

This will be found to be a very useful book for beginners in this field. While it is written

for the novice, the author is accurately informed as to the field and furnishes thoroughly reliable information. The volume is in the series of "Studies in Theology," which doubtless accounts for the almost painful brevity with which important matters are often treated. But the result could hardly be otherwise in so small a book purporting to cover both the Greco-Roman and the Jewish worlds immediately preceding and contemporary with the history of Christianity in New Testament times. But the Jewish environment is dealt with so sparingly as to be almost a negligible item. In placing emphasis upon the pagan world the author probably had in mind the fact that the literature on this subject was relatively meager, while a reader might easily find elsewhere good introductory studies to Judaism. It is not the purpose of the book to set the Christian movement into relation with the environment described, but a student may easily note for himself some of the outstanding items in this relationship. Now and then the author makes a remark which seems to indicate that he does not consider this relationship to have been a very vital one. For example, he speaks of Christianity as coming into this environment, it is to be viewed in contrast and in contact with its environment, but seemingly it is not to be considered as in any real sense also a product of the environment. But apart from this limitation, this little volume is well suited to accomplish the purpose for which it is designed.

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**Prisoners of Hope.** By Bishop Brent. New York: Longmans, 1915. Pp. x+279. \$1.50 net.

Bishop Brent's sermons are always welcome. They build up a manly Christian character, teaching the power of hope and the value of fairness. Several of the addresses contained in this book deal with Christian unity, and nowhere has the problem been better presented or the attitude that every Christian communion ought to assume better exemplified.

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**The Arya Samaj: An Account of Its Aim, Doctrine and Activities, with a Biographical Sketch of the Founder.** By Lajpat Rai. New York: Longmans, 1915. Pp. xxvi+305. \$1.75.

This is an apology for the movement of reform in Hinduism organized by D. Swami Dayananda in 1875. While another society, the Brahmo Samaj, was practically a Hindu form of Unitarianism, the Arya Samaj on the contrary is a Puritan movement. Its basis is the